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OPERATIONS CENTER

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WORKING GROUP ON KAL INCIDENT

Situation Report No. 3

Situation as of 0500 EDT September 2, 1983:

Demarche to Soviets Requesting Crash Site Information:

Embassy Moscow Charge Zimmerman called on the Deputy Director of the USA Department September 2 to request information on the Soviet search and rescue effort at the crash site of KAL 007. Our demarche was based on reliable reports received by CINCPAC of the strong possibility the Soviets had located the crash site. In addition to requesting information on the coordinates of the crash site as well as weather and sea conditions, Zimmerman requested Soviet concurrence for available U.S. units to assist in searching the site. Zimmerman also stressed that our own rescue operations are not intended to violate Soviet territorial waters. He cautioned that the Soviets not mistake our intentions and overreact. The Soviet official had no response to the demarche, only promising to pass on the request to his superiors. Assistant Secretary Burt made the same points to Soviet Embassy Charge Sokolov here in Washington.

No Report of Results in Rescue Effort: The Command Center at the Pentagon has received no reports from CINCPAC of any results of our rescue efforts outside Soviet territorial waters. There are press reports of a contact between a Japanese rescue vessel and a Soviet patrol boat.

UNSC/Korea/Japan: We have submitted our request for a Security Council meeting on the incident. Informal consultations of the Council members are scheduled today. In response to queries from their friends, the Soviets are claiming that the U.S. intends to use the incident for political propaganda and are urging their friends to stand behind the TASS report during the UNSC debate.

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Earlier, Ambassador Walker met with Foreign Minister Lee to inform the Koreans of our initiative and to request ROKG approval. Lee told the Ambassador the ROKG wholeheartedly approves. He asked that the ROKG observer at the UN be invited to address the Council, a request which the Ambassador endorsed. Embassy Tokyo reported that the Japanese have instructed their UN Mission to also request a UNSC meeting. The Japanese also expressed their appreciation of the cooperative spirit shown by the U.S. on the issue.

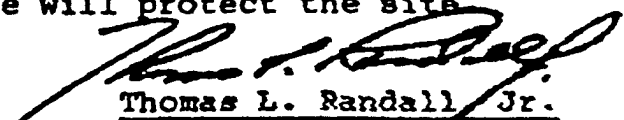
President Returns to Washington: President Reagan will return to Washington today and will convene a meeting of the National Security Council at 1830.

Eagleburger and Burt Television Appearances: Undersecretary Eagleburger appeared on ABC's Nightline September 1 and stated there was no doubt that the Soviets had shot down the KAL airliner. He described details of the incident and stressed that the Soviet action was outside the bounds of international law. He said the United States would go to the Security Council in support of a resolution to present the facts of the case. Assistant Secretary Burt, appearing on a CBS Special Report, stated that we are taking vigorous action in response to the Soviet attack and that further options have been developed for Presidential decisions. Burt also appeared on the McNeil-Lehrer Report. Eagleburger, Burt and Ambassador Hartman are appearing on the three morning news programs.

Consular Efforts: The Working Group has received inquiries on about 60 persons, of whom 44 appear to be U.S. citizens. So far the Passport Office has been able to confirm that 24 of the 44 are indeed Americans. Responding to a request from CA, which had experienced difficulty in obtaining information on passengers from U.S. offices of KAL, we asked Ambassador Walker to intervene with the airline to assure a full and free flow of such information. The Embassy reported at 2300 EDT that KAL and the Foreign Ministry had agreed to our request.

Soviet Embassy Protest: The Soviet Embassy has protested to the Department damage done to a sign at the Aeroflot office in Washington September 1. We noted the protest and have taken measures to see that D.C. police will protect the site.


John Hefft/John Hoog
KAL Working Group


Thomas L. Randall Jr.
Senior Watch Officer

Clearances: EUR/SOV:TWSimons, Jr
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